Case 5:14-cv-02822-EJD Document 1 Filed 06/18/14 Page 1 of 17 Irene Karbelashvili, State Bar Number 232223 Law Office of Irene Karbelashvili 12 South First Street, Suite 413 San Jose, CA 95113 Telephone: (408) 295-0137 Fax: (408) 295-0142 Kenneth J. Pinto, State Bar Number 221422 Law Office of Kenneth J. Pinto 12 South First Street, Suite 713 San Jose, CA 95113 Telephone: (408) 289-1765 Fax: (408) 289-1754 Attorneys for RICHARD JOHNSON, Plaintiff UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA Case No. Civil Rights RICHARD JOHNSON, Plaintiff. COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES PER CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1714, VS. PRELIMINARY AND PERMANENT INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, CRUZ SERGION BECERRA, an DECLARATORY RELIEF AND individual, d/b/a MARISCOS SAN JUAN; DAMAGES: DENIAL OF CIVIL ROBERT D. FRISONE, an individual; RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC VIZZA INVESTMENTS, LLC, a FACILITIES TO PHYSICALLY California limited liability company; and DISABLED PERSONS, PER DOES 1-20, Inclusive, FEDERAL AND CALIFORNIA Defendants. STATUTES (INCLUDING CIVIL CODE §§ 51, 52, 54, 54.1, 54.3, AND § 55; AND HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §§ 19955 ET SEQ.); INJUNCTIVE RELIEF PER TITLE III, AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES **ACT OF 1990** DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Complaint for Damages Per California Civil Code § 1714, Preliminary and Permanent Injunctive Relief, Declaratory Relief and Damages: Denial of Civil Rights and Access to Public Facilities to Physically Disabled Persons, Per Federal and California Statutes (Including Civil Code §§ 51, 52, 54, 54.1, 54.3, and § 55; and Health & Safety Code §§ 19955 et seq.); Injunctive Relief Per Title III, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

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I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. On July 26, 1990, Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), establishing the most important civil rights for person with disabilities in our country's history. 42 USC §12101 et seq.; ADA §2 et seq.
- 2. The Congressional statutory findings include:

Historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem. 42 USC §12101(a)(2).

Discrimination against individuals with disabilities persists in such critical areas as...public accommodations...and access to public services; 42 USC §12101(a)(3).

[I]ndividuals who have experienced discrimination on the basis of disability have often had no legal recourse to redress such discrimination; 42 USC §12101(a)(4).

Individuals with disabilities continually encounter various forms of discrimination, including outright intentional exclusion, the discriminatory effects of architectural transportation, and communication barriers, [and] failure to make modifications to existing facilities and practices; 42 USC §12101(a)(5).

The Nation's proper goals regarding individuals with disabilities are to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for such individuals; 42 USC §12101(a)(8) and

The continuing existence of unfair and unnecessary discrimination and prejudice denies people with disabilities the opportunity to compete on an equal basis and to pursue those opportunities for which our free society is justifiably famous, and costs the United States billions of dollars in unnecessary expenses resulting from

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dependency and non-productivity. 42 USC §12101(a)(9).

3. Congress went on to state explicitly the purpose of the ADA, to be:

To provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities; 42 USC §12101(b)(1)

To provide clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities; 42 USC §12101(b)(2). [and] To invoke the sweep of congressional authority...in order to address the major areas of discrimination faced day-to-day by people with disabilities. 42 USC §12101(b)(4).

- 4 Congress gave commercial businesses one and a half (1 1/2) years to implement the ADA. The effective date of Title III of the ADA was January 26, 1992.
- 5. Nevertheless, more than twenty years later, CRUZ SERGION BECERRA, an individual, d/b/a MARISCOS SAN JUAN; ROBERT D. FRISONE, an individual; VIZZA INVESTMENTS, LLC, a California limited liability company and DOES I through 20, (collectively "Defendants"), have not brought the restaurant known as MARISCOS SAN JUAN (the "Restaurant"), located at 205 North 4th Street, San Jose, California, within the statutory and regulatory requirements of the California State Building Code Part 1, Part 2 ('Title 24'), the Americans With Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines ('ADAAG'), and the Uniform Building Code ('UBC').
- 6. As such, the Defendants discriminatorily denied Plaintiff, and other similarly situated persons with physical disabilities, access to the full and equal enjoyment of, opportunity to participate in, and benefits from, the goods, facilities, services, and accommodations thereof.
- 7. The Defendants were well aware that they needed to make their place of business

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1	accessible. Therefore, Plaintiff seeks to redress Plaintiff's rights under the ADA and ask this
2	Court to issue monetary, declaratory, punitive and injunctive relief against Defendants to end
3	the ongoing discrimination pursuant to:
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5	• The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 USC §12101 et seq.;
	• The Disabled Persons Act, California Civil Code §§54, 54 1, 54 3, and 55.
6	• The Unruh Act, California Civil Code sections 51, 51 5, and 52;
7	• Health and Safety Code Part 5.5, California Health and Safety Code sections 19955 et seq.;
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9	II. JURISDICTION
10	8. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 for violations
11	of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12201 et seq. Pursuant to supplemental jurisdiction, attendant and
12	related causes of action, arising from the same facts, are also brought under California law,
13	including, but not limited to, violations of California Health & Safety Code § 19955 et seq. and
14	the Unruh Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 51 et seq.
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17	III. VENUE
18	9. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (b) and is founded on the
	fact that the real property which is the subject of this action is located in the Northern District
19	and that Plaintiff's causes of action arose in the Northern District
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21	IV. PARTIES
22	10. Plaintiff, RICHARD JOHNSON ("Plaintiff") is a paraplegic due to a motorcycle
23	accident that happened a few years ago. Plaintiff requires the use of a wheelchair to move
24	around.
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26	11. Plaintiff is a qualified physically disabled person, as defined under Department of
27	Justice regulation 28 C.F.R. § 36.104 and California Government Code § 12926. Plaintiff
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possesses a DMV issued disabled parking placard and is entitled to park in disabled accessible parking spaces, including van accessible parking spaces, and to travel on and along public paths of travel between such parking facilities and areas to which the general public is invited. He is also entitled to fully accessible facilities with the public areas of the shopping center and its facilities. Plaintiff is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a resident of Los atos.

- 12. Consequently, Plaintiff is a member of that portion of the public whose rights are protected by the provisions of Title III of the ADA, Health and Safety Code Part 5.5., the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Disabled Persons Act.
- 13. Defendants are the owners, operators, lessors and/or lessees, or agents of the owners, lessors, lessees, and/or alter egos, franchisors and/or franchisees, of the building and/or buildings which constitute a public facility in and of itself, occupied by the Restaurant and subject to the requirements of California State Law requiring full and equal access to public facilities pursuant to Health and Safety Code Part 5.5, the Unruh Act, the Disabled Persons Act, Title III of the ADA and all other legal requirements referred to in this complaint.
- 14. Plaintiff does not know the relative responsibilities of each of the Defendants in the operation of the facilities herein complained of, and allege joint venture and common enterprise by all such Defendants.
- 15. Plaintiff is informed and believes that all named Defendants including Does 1 through 20, inclusive, conspired to commit the acts described herein, or alternatively, aided and abetted one another in performance of the wrongful acts hereinafter alleged.
- 16. Plaintiff does not know the true names of all Defendants, their business capacities, their ownership connection to the property and business nor their relative responsibilities causing the access violations herein complained of, and allege a joint venture and common enterprise by all such defendants.

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17. Defendants Does 1 through 20, inclusive, is the agent, ostensible agent master, servant, employer, employee, representative, franchisor, franchisee, joint venturer, alter-ego, partner and associate, or such similar capacity of each of the other defendants, and was at all times acting and performing, or failing to act or perform, within the scope of his, her, or it's authority as agent, ostensible agent, master, servant, employer, employee, representative, franchisor, franchisee, joint venturer, alter-ego, partner and associate, or such similar capacity, and with the authorization, consent, permission, or ratification of each of the other defendant in legally causing the violations and damages complained of herein, and have approved or ratified each of the acts or omissions of each of the defendants, as herein described.

18. Plaintiff may seek leave to amend when the true names capacities, connections, and responsibilities of Defendants are ascertained, if the same becomes necessary.

19. The Restaurant is a "place of public accommodation" as defined under Title III of the ADA ("Title III"), 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7)(B), and California civil rights laws, Cal. Civ. Code § 51 et seq. and Health & Safety Code § 19955 et seq.

V. FACTS UPON WHICH ALL CLAIMS ARE BASED

a wheelchair or other mobility device, are unable to access and use the goods, services, and

facilities offered at the Restaurant on a "full and equal" basis unless they are brought into

compliance with Title III, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq.; Health & Safety Code § 19955 et seq.,

and California Code of Regulations, Title 24-2 ("Tit. 24-2"), all of which were enacted to

ensure full and equal access for persons with disabilities in places of public accommodation.

Plaintiff is a member of that portion of the public whose rights are protected by these laws.

Plaintiff and other similarly situated, physically disabled persons who require the use of

21. Plaintiff uses a wheelchair for mobility and is considered a disabled individual under the Americans with Disabilities Act. On many occasions, including but not limited to May 17, 2014 and June 4, 2014, Plaintiff attempted to dine at the Restaurant located in downtown San Jose on

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The entire bathroom is non-complaint

- 26. Plaintiff wants to continue to use the Restaurant for his phone servicing needs. However, Defendant's persistent violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act makes it extremely difficult and dangerous for Plaintiff to frequent the Restaurant. These barriers to access are listed without prejudice to Plaintiff citing additional barriers to access after inspection by Plaintiff's access consultant, per the 9th Circuit's standing standards under *Doran v. 7-Eleven. Inc.* 524 F.3d 1034 (9th Cir. 2008).
- 27. Until the barriers at the Restaurant are removed, Plaintiff will continue to suffer discrimination by being excluded and deterred from returning to the Restaurant, and will continue to be denied full and equal access to and use of the same goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations offered by Defendants to the general public.
- 28. As the result of Defendants' acts and omissions, as herein described, Plaintiff was, and will continue to be denied full and equal access to the "goods, services, facilities, advantages, or accommodations" offered by the Restaurant and has suffered discrimination, humiliation, pain, emotional distress, and embarrassment all to his damage. The ongoing nature of Defendants' discrimination constitutes an ongoing violation, and unless enjoined by this Court, will result in ongoing and irreparable injury.

VI. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITES ACT OF 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*)

Denial of "Full and Equal" Enjoyment and Use

- 29. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 28 of this Complaint, and incorporates them herein as if separately repled.
- 30. Title III of the ADA holds as a "general rule" that no individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment (or use) of goods, services, facilities, privileges, and accommodations offered by any person who owns, operates, or leases

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California Statutes (Including Civil Code §§ 51, 52, 54, 54.1, 54.3, and § 55; and Health & Safety Code §§ 19955 et seq.);
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afford (and would not fundamentally alter the nature of) these goods, services, facilities, or

accommodations.

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44. Plaintiff seeks all relief available under the ADA (i.e., injunctive relief, attorney fees, costs, legal expense) for these aforementioned violations. 42 U.S.C. § 12205.

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45. Plaintiff also seeks a finding from this Court (i.e., declaratory relief) that Defendants violated the ADA in order to pursue damages under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act or Disabled Persons Act.

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VII. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA DISABLED PERSONS ACT

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California Civil Code sections 54, et seq.

- 46. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 45 of this Complaint, and incorporates them herein as if separately repled.
- 47. California Civil Code § 54 states, in part, that: Individuals with disabilities have the same right as the general public to the full and free use of the streets, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings and facilities, and other public places.
- California Civil Code § 54.1 also states, in part, that: Individuals with disabilities shall 48. be entitled to full and equal access to accommodations, facilities, telephone facilities, places of public accommodation, and other places to which the general public is invited.
- 49. Both sections specifically incorporate (by reference) an individual's rights under the ADA. See California Civil Code §§ 54 (c) and 54.1 (d).
- 50. Here, Defendants discriminated against the physically disabled public - including Plaintiff by denying them full and equal access to the Restaurant. Defendants also violated

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Relief and Damages: Denial of Civil Rights and Access to Public Facilities to Physically Disabled Persons, Per Federal and California Statutes (Including Civil Code §§ 51, 52, 54, 54.1, 54.3, and § 55; and Health & Safety Code §§ 19955 et seq.);

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incited a denial, or discriminated against Plaintiff by violating the Unruh Act.

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58. Pursuant to the remedies, procedures, and rights set forth in California Civil Code § 52, Plaintiff prays for judgment as set forth below.

IX. FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION DENIAL OF FULL AND EQUAL ACCESS TO A PERSON WITH PHYSICAL

DISABILITIES IN A PUBLIC FACILITIES

Health and Safety Code sections 19955 et seq.

allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 58 of this Complaint, and incorporates them

accommodations or facilities constructed in this state with private funds adhere to the

provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with §4450) of Division 5 of Title 1 of the Government

Code." Such public accommodations are defined as any "building, structure, facility, complex,

or improved area that is used by the general public...," and includes restaurants and related

sanitary facilities, shopping centers and related sanitary facilities, and curbs and sidewalks

Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the

California Health & Safety Code §§ 19955 et seq. was enacted "[t]o ensure that public

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herein as if separately repled.

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27 28 intended for public use. California Health & Safety Code § 19955. Plaintiff alleges that the Restaurant underwent construction and/or alterations after

61. January 1, 1982 that triggered access requirements under Title 24-2. Pursuant to Title 24-2, compliance with disabled access building standards and specifications is required whenever public accommodations, such as the Restaurant, undergo an "alteration, structural repair or addition."

62. Pursuant to the remedies, procedures, and rights set forth in Health & Safety Code § 19953. Plaintiff prays for judgment as set forth below.

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1 XI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF 2 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray judgment against the Defendants for: 3 PRAYER FOR FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION [Violation of the Americans with Disabilities 4 Act/: 5 1. For injunctive relief, compelling Defendants to make the Restaurant readily accessible to 6 and usable by individuals with disabilities, pursuant the Americans with Disabilities Act; 7 8 2. For injunctive relief, compelling Defendants to remove architectural barriers at the Texaco, that are structural in nature, where such removal is readily achievable; 9 10 3. For injunctive relief, compelling Defendants to make goods, services, facilities, privileges, 11 advantages, or accommodations available through alternative methods, when such methods are 12 readily achievable, if the defendants can demonstrate that the removal of a barrier under Title 13 III of the ADA is not readily achievable; 14 15 4. Any other relief provided by 42 U.S.C. §2000(a)-3(a); 16 17 5. For declaratory relief that the Defendants violated Title III of the ADA; 18 6. For attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12205; and 19 20 7. For such other and further relief as the court may deem proper. 21 22 PRAYER FOR SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION [Violation of Disabled Persons Act]: 23 1. General and special damages according to proof; 24 25 2. All damages afforded by Civil Code §54.3 for each day in which Plaintiff visited the 26 Restaurant and was denied equal access, because Plaintiff was a person with physical disabilities: 27 Complaint for Damages Per California Civil Code § 1714, Preliminary and Permanent Injunctive Relief, Declaratory 28 Relief and Damages: Denial of Civil Rights and Access to Public Facilities to Physically Disabled Persons, Per Federal and California Statutes (Including Civil Code §§ 51, 52, 54, 54.1, 54.3, and § 55; and Health & Safety Code §§ 19955 et seq.); Injunctive Relief Per Title III, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

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2	3. All damages afforded by Civil Code §54.3 for each day in which Plaintiff was deterred from
visiting the Restaurant, because Plaintiff had actual notice that Plaintiff would be access;	visiting the Restaurant, because Plaintiff had actual notice that Plaintiff would be denied equal
	access;
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6	4. All damages afforded by Civil Code §54.3 for each violation of Title III of the ADA
7	Restaurant;
8	5. All damages afforded by Civil Code §54.3 for each violation of the ADAAG, which is
9	incorporated into Title III of the ADA, that was present at the Restaurant;
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11	6. All damages afforded by Civil Code §54.3 for each violation of Title 24, which
12	established pursuant to Health and Safety Code §19955 et seq., that was present at the
13	Restaurant;
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15	7. For injunctive relief, compelling Defendants to Comply with Title 24 and the ADAAG at the
16	Restaurant pursuant to California Civil Code §55;
17	8. Attorneys' fees pursuant to Civil Code sections 54.3 and 55 and Code of Civil Procedure
18	§1021.5;
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20	9. For all costs of the suit;
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22	10. Such other and further relief as the court may deem proper.
23	DD AVED FOR THIRD CALISE OF ACTION (Violation of the House Circle)
24	PRAYER FOR THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION [Violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act]: 1. General and special damages according to proof;
25	1. General and special damages according to proof,
26	2. All damages afforded by Civil Code §52(a) for each day in which Plaintiff visited the
27	Restaurant and were denied equal access, because Plaintiff, was a person with physical
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1	disabilities;
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3. All damages afforded by Civil Code §52(a) for each day in which Plaintiff	3. All damages afforded by Civil Code §52(a) for each day in which Plaintiff was deterred
4	from visiting the Restaurant, because Plaintiff had actual notice that Plaintiff would be denied
5	equal access;
6	4. All damages afforded by Civil Code §52(a) for each violation of little III of the ADA at t
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8	Restaurant,
9	5. All damages afforded by Civil Code §52(a) for each violation of Title 24, which
10	established pursuant to Health and Safety Code §19955 et seq., that was present at the
11	Restaurant;
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13	6. Attorney fees pursuant to Civil Code §52(a) and Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5;
14	7. For all costs of suit;
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16	8. Such other and further relief as the court may deem proper.
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18	PRAYER FOR FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION [Violation of Health and Safety Code
19	§19955, et seq.]:
20	1. Injunctive or preventive relief pursuant to Health and Safety Code §19953;
21	2. For attorneys' fees pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5, Civil Code §55, and/o alternatively, Health and Safety Code §19953;
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24	3. Such other and further relief as the court may deem proper.
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